

Observ. XXXI. Of Purslane-seed.

THE Seeds of Purslane seem of very notable shapes, appearing through the Microscope shap'd somewhat like a *nautilus* or Porcelane shell, as may be seen in the XX. Scheme, it being a small body, coyl'd round in the manner of a Spiral; at the greater end whereof, which represents the mouth or orifice of the Shell, there is left a little white transparent substance, like a skin, represented by B B B B, which seems to have been the place whereunto the stem was join'd. The whole surface of this *Coclea* or Shell, is cover'd over with abundance of little *prominencies* or buttons very orderly rang'd into Spiral rows, the shape of each of which seem'd much to resemble a Wart upon a mans hand. The order, variety, and curiosity in the shape of this little seed, makes it a very pleasant object for the Microscope, one of them being cut asunder with a very sharp Penknife, discover'd this carved Casket to be of a brownish red, and somewhat transparent substance, and manifested the inside to be fill'd with a whitish green substance or pulp, the Bed wherein the seminal principle lies *invelop'd*.

There are multitudes of other seeds which in shape represent or imitate the forms of divers other sorts of Shells: as the seed of *Scurvy-grass*, very much resembles the make of a *Concha Venerea*, a kind of Purcelane Shell; others represent several sorts of larger fruits, sweat Marjorome and Pot-marjorome represent Olives. Carret seeds are like a cleft of a Coco-Nut Husk; others are like Artificial things, as Succory seeds are like a Quiver full of Arrows, the seeds of *Amaranthus* are of an exceeding lovely shape, somewhat like an Eye: The skin of the black and shrivled seeds of Onyons and Leeks, are all over knobbed like a Seals skin. Sorrel has a pretty black shining three-square seed, which is picked at both ends with three ridges, that are bent the whole length of it. It were almost endless to reckon up the several shapes, they are so many and so various; Leaving them therefore to the curious observer, I shall proceed to the Observations on the parts of Animals.

Observ. XXXII. Of the Figure of several sorts of Hair, and of the texture of the skin.

VIEWING some of the Hairs of my Head with a very good Microscope, I took notice of these particulars:

1. That they were, for the most part, *Cylindrical*, some of them were somewhat *Prismatical*, but generally they were very neer round, such as are represented in the second Figure of the 5. Scheme, by the *Cylinders* E E E. nor could I find any that had sharp angles.

2. That

2. That that part which was next the top, was bigger then that which was neerer the root.

3. That they were all along from end to end transparent, though not very cleer, the end next the root appearing like a black transparent piece of Horn, the end next the top more brown, somewhat like transparent Horn.

4. That the root of the Hairs were pretty smooth, tapering inwards, almost like a Parsneb; nor could I find that it had any filaments, or any other vessels, such as the *fibres* of Plants.

5. That the top when split (which is common in long Hair) appear'd like the end of a stick, beaten till it be all flitter'd, there being not onely two splinters, but sometimes half a score and more.

6. That they were all, as farr as I was able to find, solid *Cylindrical* bodies, not pervious, like a Cane or Bulrush; nor could I find that they had any Pith, or distinction of Rind, or the like, such as I had observ'd in Horse-hairs, the Bristles of a Cat, the *Indian* Deer's Hair, &c.

Observations on several other sorts of Hair.

For the Brisles of a Hogg, I found them to be first a hard transparent horny substance, without the least appearance of pores or holes in it; and this I try'd with the greatest care I was able, cutting many of them with a very sharp Razor, so that they appear'd, even in the Glas, to have a pretty smooth surface, but somewhat waved by the sawing to and fro of the Razor, as is visible in the end of the *Prismatical* body A of the same Figure; and then making trials with causing the light to be cast on them all the various ways I could think of, that was likely to make the pores appear, if there had been any, I was not able to discover any.

Next, the Figure of the Brisles was very various, neither perfectly round, nor sharp edg'd, but *Prismatical*, with divers sides, and round angles, as appears in the Figure A. The bending of them in any part where they before appear'd cleer, would all flaw them, and make them look white.

The Mustacheos of a Cat (part of one of which is represented by the short *Cylinder* B of the same Figure) seem'd to have, all of them that I observ'd, a large pith in the middle, like the pith of an Elder, whose texture was so close, that I was not able to discover the least sign of pores; and those parts which seem to be pores, as they appear'd in one position to the light, in another I could find a manifest reflection to be cast from them.

This I instance in, to hint that it is not safe to conclude any thing to be positively this or that, though it appear never so plain and likely when look'd on with a Microscope in one posture, before the same be examin'd by placing it in several other positions.

And this I take to be the reason why many have believed and asserted the Hairs of a man's head to be hollow, and like so many small pipes perforated from end to end.

Now, though I grant that by an *Analogie* one may suppose them so, and